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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: *Niehaus et al.*

Examiner: *Not Assigned*

Serial No.: *10/726,134*

Art Unit: *1641*

Filed: *December 1, 2003*

Date: *October 11, 2004*

For: *Detection and amplification of ligands*

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL

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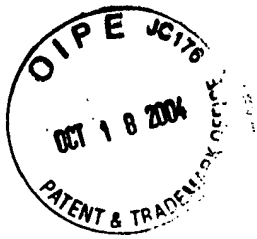
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action of September 10, 2004 the following amendments and remarks are made relative thereto, and reconsideration by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Specification begins on page 2 of this paper.